

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00759 311439Z

51 R
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /021 W
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P 311155Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4879

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0759

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, GB
SUBJ: PROPOSED DEMARCHE ON USE OF DC-8

REF: STATE 172569, STATE 172481, LIBREVILLE 0756

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF NOTE VERBALE TO GOG
REGARDING USE OF DC-8 (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED).

2. AFTER APPROPRIATE COURTESIES QUOTE AND HAS HONOR
TO CALL TO ATTENTION OF GOG ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED
IN LONDON NEWSPAPERS ON AUGUST 26 ALLEGING THAT A
DC-8 AIRCRAFT SOLD BY A UNITED STATES COMPANY TO
AFFRETAIR, A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN GABON, HAS MADE
COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM RHODESIA AND IS CONTROLLED
BY RHODESIA INTERESTS. BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES AUTHORIZED EXPORT OF THIS AIRCRAFT TO
GABON ON THE BASIS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES
THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE UTILIZED IN VIOLATION
OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON MIGHT
WISH TO MAKE ON THE REPORTED INVOLVEMENT OF THE DC-8
IN TRADE WITH RHODESIA AND THE ALLEGED OWNERSHIP OF
AFFRETAIR BY RHODESIAN INTERESTS. ANY ASSURANCES
WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON COULD PROVIDE ON THIS
SUBJECT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES ON THIS SUBJECT.
QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN GRATIFIED
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BY THE RECENT INCREASED COMMERCIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN

OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THE CONSEQUENT MUTUAL BENEFITS.
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING THE CONTINUED PACE
OF EXPANSION OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS IF DOUBTS CREATED
BY FOREIGN PRESS SOURCES REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF
THE DC-8 AIRCRAFT COULD BE RESOLVED. UNQUOTE
COUNTRYMAN

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NNN

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